

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

The Old Georgians Association



Newsletter February 2023

Welcome from the Headmistress

Helen Barton

Georgian Newsletter – Spring 2023

Miss Barton

Welcome to the first OG magazine for 2023! I hope that the new year has started well and is being kind to you. So much seems to have happened both in school life and beyond in the intervening period since our last magazine. Prime ministers have come and gone; the gas price has gone through the roof, and back down again, (at school we were at one point quoted an eye watering £800,000 for a year's supply!), and as a nation we probably had the most frugal Christmas that we have had in a while. As a school we celebrated Christmas together at the OG carol service, and what an amazing event it was. It was SO lovely to see such a large crowd, and the atmosphere over a warm glass of mulled wine and the odd sandwich or mince pie was lovely. Some of you enjoyed a tour of the school and we were all set to play lacrosse until the -5 degree Celsius temperatures froze the pitch solid! School life has continued to be lived at pace.... A beautiful and very poignant Remembrance Service, four Christmas carol services with some joyous music; the PSA Christmas fayre and Christmas ball; GCSE and A level Options evenings (remember making those difficult choices); a Jazz concert and a great deal of lacrosse and rugby have been enjoyed. The highlight of my December was seeing our boarding community members who had never seen snow before revel in the snowfall that managed to close school for the day.

Today is “Blue Monday” (apparently) but not so here. We have so much to be grateful and thankful for. As we start 2023, I hope and pray that this year has started well and will be kind to you. Keep in touch, we love hearing your stories when we either meet in person or hear from you via other forms of communication. Some of you appear to have been quite mischievous in your school days. I’ve recently heard that we will be having a statue that was ‘lifted’ from school premises in 1958 returned to us via a go-between.....you really couldn’t make it up!

Miss Barton



Updates from the Development Office



Come and see us on Super Saturday, winter finals day on 25th March 2023 9.00am - 2.00pm. Are you a parent who attended St. George's? How many generations of your family could come along, what a great memory that would be?

Please forward this newsletter to ex St. George's friends and encourage them to make contact to be added to our mailing list, development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

We would love your feedback on any items contained within this newsletter and please let us know any topics you would like included in the next one.

Do you have a story to tell? please write to us at development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

Save the date—Founders Weekend 2023 1st & 2nd July 2023.

The Old Georgians need you!

Would you like to form a group to organise an event, are you able to volunteer a few hours of your time to the committee? Could you provide a talk to inspire current students, or write an article for the newsletter?

This is a really exciting time to get involved as we revitalise the association so If you could help rejuvenate the Old Georgians then please email:-

development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Georgians Harpenden



oldgeorgians100



Updates from the School Team

New Staff Members from December 2022

Keeran Ramdany – Learning Support
Sally Cunningham – Learning Support
Simon Blackwood – Catering Manager
Nadine Siddons – Learning Support
Midori Folland – Kitchen Assistant
Alice Rees – Finance Administrator
Georgina Peters – Director of Learning Sixth Form
Fung Yee Lai (known as Angel) – Kitchen Assistant
Samantha Baah – Kitchen Assistant
Chloe Grace – Library Midday Supervisor
Helen Louise Taylor (Known as Louise Taylor) Non-Resident Houseparent
Federica Fonti – Learning Support Assistant
Hoi Ha Martha Fung (Known as Martha) – HR Assistant
Kerry-leigh White – Catering Administrator
John David – Caretaker

The New School Flag Flying High!



On the Grapevine

St George's Question Time 2022



'Last week we hosted 'St George's Question Time' with an incredible panel that would not have been out of place on the BBC version. The event was hosted by Mr Ellis and Sophie Ledger (school captain) with significant help from a large number of Year 12 & Year 13 students. The audience got to see high quality debate with a set of guests that included our local MP, national & international journalists, as well as a student representative. We look forward to St George's Question Time '23!'

James Ellis

Head of Politics

Deputy Head of Monk House

Do have a funny or interesting story to tell. Would you like to share your journey since leaving St. George's.

We would love to hear from you. Please email your news no matter how big or small to development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk

On the Grapevine

Remembrance at St George's



THERE BUT NOT THERE

————— COMMEMORATE. EDUCATE. HEAL ————

Students found themselves confronted in the Chapel by ghostly Perspex outlines taking up seats across the space; reminding us of the more than 50 Old Georgians who lost their lives in the course of the Two World Wars.

Our Chapel Organist and Archivist, Russell Tucker, has spent time in the last year working to identify any ex students whose names somehow came to be missed from the roll of names on the War memorial Panel on the front of the Chapel Balcony. He has identified 4 names:

Flight Lieutenant David Colmore, 11 Squadron RAF, who was missing in action on 15th May 1944. he was flying a Hurricane aircraft over Burma.

Pilot officer Kenneth Harvey, 62 Squadron RAF, who died on 29th April 1942 in Singapore, probably in Japanese captivity.

Brigadier Robert Marks, 3rd Gurkha Rifles, who died in a plane crash on 25th May 1944. he was one of the commanders of the “Chindits”, a special forces unit operating in Burma.

Lieutenant John Peacey, Royal Army Service Corps

If you are interested in St George's students who served in World War 1, you might like to get hold of a copy of our History of the War Dead of St George's World War 1. You can get it on Amazon.

On the Grapevine

1939 – 1945

DAVID O'BRIEN
DENIS ODELL
ROBERT OWEN
JOHN SEATON PACEY
ALLAN PROCTOR
JAMES RICHARDSON
DENIS ROBINSON
RAINALD SALZMAN
MARGERY STOCKEN

1939 – 1945

GAVIN SELLAR
GORDON SMILLIE
JOHN CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR
HUGH THOMSON
REGINALD WESTERMAN
HORRY WINN
DAVID COLMORE
KENNETH HARVEY
ROBERT MARKS

“Always look up”

“Whenever you walk into a room, always remember to look up” was the sound advice given to me by Dr Grenfell-Hill, a former Head of sixth form at St George’s when I told him I was visiting Florence one Easter. He was right because when you visit Florence, much of the stunning art and architecture is on the ceilings and walls of the buildings and if you do not look up, you miss it!

The next time you visit the school Chapel you may wish to look up and if you do, you will notice that on the war memorial, which is attached to the balcony, there are four new names that have been added. You will find them on the right hand panels. Thank you to Mr Wallace (head of Drama) for taking such a great photograph of the panels with the new names included.

One of my lockdown projects was to research and document the lives of the Georgians who died in the Second World War. My aim is to produce at some point a pamphlet detailing their lives; along the same lines as the one Mr. Storrie wrote about the Georgians who died in the First World War. It was whilst undertaking this research that I realised that four names were missing from our war memorial and therefore from the school’s role of honour which is read out each year by the Headmistress on Remembrance Sunday.

This has now been rectified and my thanks to Mr Storrie (Deputy Head), who found the funds to finance the project and Mr Browne (Head of Art), who undertook the risky job of getting up a scaffold and transferring the names onto the memorial.

We now have a complete war memorial which includes:

David Colmore-died 14 May 1944 aged 21. Served with Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

St George’s 1931-1934.

Kenneth Harvey-died 29 April 1941 aged 21. Served with Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

St George’s 1936-1939.

Robert Marks-died 25 May 1944 aged 42. Served with Queen Alexandra’s Own Gurkha Rifles.

St George’s 1909-1919.

Margery Stocken-died 9 April 1945 aged 19. Served with Women’s Royal Navy Service.

St George’s 1934-1936.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

Mr R.M.Tucker Chapel Organist and Archivist

On the Grapevine

Lacrosse - Report on last Sunday's Challenge Cup



On Sunday 20th November our senior 1st X attended England Lacrosse's Challenge Cup, a competition where the top 8 teams in the country come together to compete for the top position. The top 8 schools are selected from the final rankings at the end of the National Schools Championships in the previous season. The lacrosse program has been growing and developing over the last 5 years to the size it is today. We have had teachers and students come and go, a wealth of parent volunteers step forward to learn the game, new block fixtures and shared love of the game for all those who have played. The result of this has been mass participation and enjoyment across all year groups. This in turn, has led to great development within our program where we have started performing over and above where we should. So, 5 years later and our program has got us to The Challenge Cup. To be the only state school in England to play lacrosse and to reach the top 8 in the country is an almighty achievement for all involved! (We might add that after day one at National School's, the group stage, we had the best record of ANY school present).

On the day the girls selected to represent the school were brilliant. They worked incredibly hard and the on-pitch highlight was our first game against Benenden where we lost 4-5 having played some of our best lacrosse all season! A set of tough games followed against St Cats and St Swithuns but all in all it was a brilliant learning experience for our young senior team and a great opportunity to be rubbing shoulders with the best of the best! As always with sport at St George's the real highlights often come from our students. At the end of the day, England Lacrosse and the umpiring team were incredibly complimentary of our girls talking about their politeness to officials, potential as a team and camaraderie as a group. Seeing the girl's bond with each other is a testament to the lacrosse ethos we have where we pride ourselves on having outstanding sportsmanship, putting in 100% effort to all that we do and giving back to the lacrosse within school to inspire future players of the game.

Thank you to all past and present players, coaches and parents who have supported our program to make St George's lacrosse what it is today.

Jessica Foster

Deputy Director of Sport

PS from Paddy Storrie - Jess fails to mention the enormous impact she has had as leader of a programme where she is the only member of staff who has actually played women's lacrosse.

On the Grapevine

House Music 2022

Congratulation to Grant House, the winners of House Music 2022!



On the Grapevine

Careers in Art Evening

Over 60 Students and Parents attended the Careers in Art event on Thursday 8th December. The four St George's alumni were inspirational as they shared their journey and the traits that they felt were important to thrive in the creative industry. They had left between 4 and 20 years ago and have achieved considerable success in the creative Industry. They were:

Jade Tomlin. Group Creative Director at AKQA Design agency

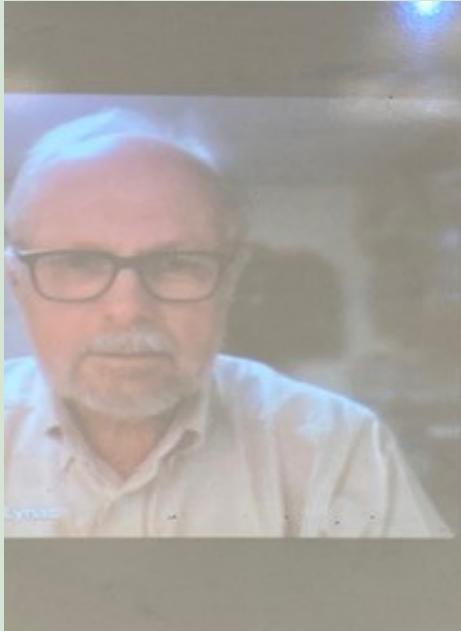
Chandni Brambadt: Senior Digital Designer at Selfridges.

Timi Marcel: Professional freelance Photographer.

**Alice Slater: Junior Digital Embroidery Coordinator
at Hand and Lock**



On the Grapevine



Thank you to **Old Georgian Chris Woodworth-Lynas** who gave a talk to our students on The Mysteries of Icebergs.

Chris is an expert in marine geoscience, particularly the physical geography of the seafloor, and the glacial and post-glacial processes that are shaping it. His presentation will focus on the allure of icebergs and the problems they pose to shipping and offshore platforms. When their deep keels strike the seafloor, they can do serious damage to plants and animals living on and in the seabed and to human infrastructure of pipelines, telecommunication and power cables



The Head had the privilege to be at Twickenham watching two OG's on the pitch. Farrell 100th cap. Many congratulations from all of us in the StG's family.

News from our

Old Georgians

Obituaries:

Alan Green—September 1926—March 2022

It is with sadness we announce the death of Alan in March 22, aged 95 at home in Letchworth.

Having visited Shandan in the 1960's he became fascinated in the life of George Hogg and supported St George's endeavours with generous financial assistance to help fund visits and gave a prize at Speech Day for a number of years.

Alan came to the School when there were official visits from the Chinese Embassy and accompanied the Shandan delegation to London during their summer visit.

Roger Noyes was a old Georgian who left in 1957

It is with much sadness that I wish to report to you the death of Roger Noyes. He passed away peacefully on 1st October at Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne. He is survived by our mother, Pippa Noyes, a fellow St Georgian.



Old Georgian Carol Service 2022

It was great to see so many Old Georgians at the Carol Concert. The service by candle light was magical. It was a trip down memory lane for Janet and Rob Broad who were married in the chapel 50 years ago in a candle lit service.



Old Georgians - cont.



A few weeks ago I went to see two of our former senior students, Ollie Norman and Sophia Dempsey, who are currently studying in the third year at Cambridge. It was an absolute delight to see how these fine young people were getting on and how much they were enjoying their studies at the University.

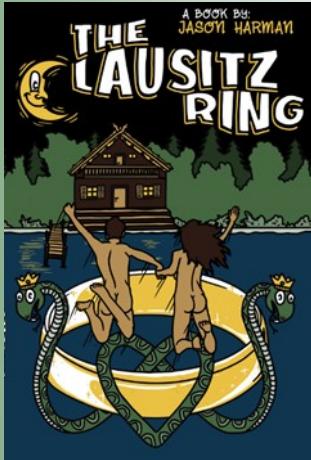
It was a bright sunny day with blue skies above, a perfect day to visit the University colleges and environs. We started the day by visiting their colleges at Robinson and Selwyn respectively. It was fabulous to see where they were living and studying and how happy they were. As we walked we discussed university life and the merits of their courses in history and geography. They also showed great interest in asking about St George's and about staff and students that they had known there. They reflected very fondly on the school and talked about the learning they had experienced and the skills that they had garnered from their time in their roles of responsibility as Deputy and School Captains. This is something that we have always developed in our young people at the school and I know from my conversations with former students, it has always been something that they have been very grateful for and has helped them in their future studies and careers.

We then walked to the prestigious colleges of Kings, John and Jesus where Ollie and Sophia gave me a full tour. It was of course a wonderful visit and as promised accessed all areas, even including the Selwyn bike sheds!

It is always lovely to see our old Georgians enjoying life and doing well for themselves and I know that there are many like Ollie and Sophia who have gone onto great things and of whom we are rightly proud. Best of luck to all our former students in their on going endeavours. I'm sure that they will 'Aim Higher' in all that they do.

Mr Hollingsworth





Jason Harman - Old Georgian 1979 - 1986

Jason is an OG now living in Hamburg. Jason got in touch with the Head to let her know he has recently published a book called “The Lausitz Ring” about a young English guy who moves to eastern Germany for work and adventure after the fall of the Berlin Wall and who experiences many cultural and political differences. (Apart from the crime story he threw in, yes, it’s semi-autobiographical.)

The Lausitz Ring cost me ten years, the sacrifice of many sunny weekends and the nerves of friends who I insisted read it, but out it came. Why did I write it? Fundamentally, it was an urge to tell a story that resonates – in the way that sharing a joke does when you and your buddies are in on it; the desire to produce a book that you yourself would love to slide off the shelf, take home and read; and the thought that the last book you didn’t finish, you could easily do a better job of writing!

While I was at St George’s (1979-86, Watts, by the way), I never thought that I would one day write a book, let alone edit, publish, promote or even earn a few pennies from one. I used to think this was just for select people like Jeffrey Archer or Margaret Atwood. But now anyone can – young or old, smart or not so smart, as a side-hustle or full-time. Self-publishing has wonderfully opened the door to everyone.

I don’t remember being particularly good in English at St George’s either. The literature back then – Great Expectations, Henry IV-Part One, Cider with Rosie – was like chewing the leather on my soggy rugby boots. German literature – with Kafka and Schiller – similarly.

But one German writer for some bizarre reason left a mark – Karl Zuckmayer. I must have seen the stage play of *Des Teufels General* in the 6th form and had the story bubbling away in my sub-conscious ever since, because its premise and its main characters all quite miraculously appeared in the book – but not as Nazis (though this was tempting).

The Lausitz Ring is semi-autobiographical, a snapshot of a phase of my life when I lived in the former East Germany and a *Zeitgeist* after the fall of the Berlin Wall which makes it a bit edgy and perplexing for the English protagonist – his German girlfriend adds humour to the complications. And while being mostly fictional, the story’s moments and characters are inspired by real-life moments and real-life characters making it credible, alive and a lot of fun to write. So much fun in fact that I’ve started on a sequel which I hope won’t take ten years. But I have noticed friends avoiding me.

If you have an impulse to get in touch or ask about anything, I’d be happy to respond. You can reach me on jharman67@msn.com

Old Georgians - cont.

**The Rev. Laurence A. Hubbard, M.A. (Lls Hubbard when I was at school!)
1947-1955. Head Boy and School Captain, 1954-55.**

Launence would like to share the story of the missing Venus statue.

Where has Venus gone?

I wonder how many O.G's know if I ask them, "Where is the Venus alcove?" If you come into the school by the front door from the car park, or the "gravel" as we called it, it is opposite you and opposite the bottom of the stairs. There was a statue of the Roman goddess Venus sitting in the alcove. She was semi-naked, headless, and on a large high plinth. It was made of polished stone, ivory coloured. On returning from our half-term holiday in the summer term of 1955 the boarders were surprised to find she had disappeared and the alcove was empty! I had my own ideas but they did not make much sense, except that the Headmaster would know.

I therefore suggested to some of the boy and girl boarders that we have a funeral procession that evening and go and ask Mr. Gedge. We found a plank of wood and some of them carried it like a coffin. We started from the gravel outside the Chapel and went singing sad hymns across to the Headmaster's garden at the front of the school, and round the north corner to his front door. I knocked as we sang. Mr .Gedge came to the door, looked out, laughed and smiled but said nothing, then closed the door. We gave up and went away. From then onwards nothing was said at all.

A good many years later I thought I had an answer. Mr. Gedge felt the statue of this half-naked female gave a poor impression to visitors and future parents, let alone the school. His friend Air-Vice Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, Chairman of the Board of Governors was in charge of the R.A.F. Officers Training College. He gave an initiative test to these these young men. They should go to the school with a truck and secretly take away the statue with no-one seeing. This was not hard over half-term. They must have come driven into the gravel, dragged the statue out, the Aim Higher door being unlocked, loaded it and gone off. What they did with it I do not know. I have never proved my theory, nor has any one ever explained it's disappearance, or said a word.

Old Georgians



Rebecca O. Salvage OG year of 2007, is a research associate at the University of Calgary and is based in Canada.

At Work

6 January 2023—Rebecca Salvage’s high school in the U.K. didn’t offer Earth sciences as a course, but she loved physical geography and chemistry. One of her teachers suggested that Salvage consider a geology degree at university.

“When I got there, I knew this was what I wanted to do,” recalls Salvage, now a research associate at the University of Calgary. “I love the range of disciplines in Earth sciences: maths, geography, chemistry, physics, art and visualization—it’s got it all!”

She studied abroad at the University of Oregon in her third year at the University of Bristol, and a vacation visit to Mount St. Helens cemented her desire to work in geophysics, studying volcanoes and earthquakes. Salvage began with volcanoes, completing a Ph.D. at the University of Leeds that looked at using seismic signals to forecast volcanic processes such as dome collapse events at Soufrière Hills in Montserrat and eruptions at Chiles-Cerro Negro on the border between Ecuador and Colombia.

“My first postdoc was at the Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica where I was part of a team that undertook real-time monitoring of seismicity associated with the active volcanoes in the country, as well as regional seismicity,” Salvage said. “I spent time in the field, as well as developing codes to classify incoming seismicity and use it as a forecasting tool.”

Today, Salvage is applying many of the same skills and analyses to human-induced seismicity related to the energy sector in Canada. “I still look at the continuous seismic signals and write code to undertake event detection and location analysis, calculate magnitudes and source characteristics and use ambient noise to determine changes in the subsurface – it’s just now I focus on human-induced seismicity as opposed to that associated with volcanoes,” she said.

The development of fractures—and the associated seismicity—is important in both environments, she noted.

“In reservoir environments fractures are necessary for commercial success of the projects, and so being able to map them may help on future projects in the area as well as tell us something about the stress field,” Salvage said. “In volcanic environments, the development of fractures could indicate pathways to the surface through which fluid or gas, water or magma may migrate, which is important for hazard and risk mitigation.”

The detection and analysis of microseismicity is another aspect that connects research in both environments. “Microseismicity is kind of a broad term which is often misused,” Salvage explained. “Microseismicity refers to small seismic events, in terms of magnitudes, which can be either natural or human-induced.”

One of the best-known microseisms is the background “hum” – caused by waves in the oceans and small lakes – that the Earth gives off, she said, although now the term is often associated with human-induced seismicity.

“The reason for this is that typically these operations produce much lower magnitude seismic events than natural seismicity. The largest human-induced events are closer to a magnitude 5, compared to natural events which we know can exceed magnitude 9.5,” she said.

Being able to detect and analyze small magnitude events has helped seismologists “better understand evolving sequences of seismicity,” Salvage said. “There are examples where we previously thought there were periods of quiescence—no earthquakes—but this may not actually be the case. It’s just that the events were too small for us to detect at the time.”

The increasing popularity of machine learning and fiber optic technology allow seismologists to better collect and analyze massive amounts of data quickly, she noted. In particular, fiber optic or distributed acoustic sensing (DAS)’s excellent spatial resolution over a range of frequencies “means that a single instrument can detect teleseismic, microseismic and even slow slip or aseismic events. My work has started to move toward looking for slow slip processes using DAS data,” she said.

Salvage said she is “pretty open” as to where she wants her career to go next, whether it be academia or industry. “For me, it’s about having the right supervisors and colleagues, and having interesting data to work with,” she said. “I have always tried to take opportunities primarily based on my interest in the subject matter, and this is how I plan to continue with my career.”

Volcanoes remain a source of fascination for her, and “I’d also love to get more involved in using seismology and fiber optic monitoring for renewable energy projects such as [carbon capture, utilization and storage] CCUS and geothermal,” she added. “As these technologies develop and more demand is placed on them as we try to reach net zero [emissions], I think geoscientists and seismologists will be really important to enhance our understanding of ongoing processes in the subsurface, and for risk assessment issues.”

SSA At Work is a monthly column that follows the careers of SSA members. (Seismological Society of America)

Join The Legacy Wall



Name to appear on brick/s 2 lines max. 16 characters per line, punctuation and spaces count as characters, no accents.

Join Our Legacy Wall Booking Form

A minimum donation of £48 will buy a brick which can be engraved with up to 2 lines of gold lettering.

I would like to buy bricks at a cost of £48 per brick

I would like to donate £..... per brick

Total Donation £..... (Please make cheque payable to St George's School for the attention of the Development office)



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.....
.....

Postcode:

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I am a UK tax payer

Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat any and all donations that I make to St George's School (Harpden) Limited on or after the date of this declaration (unless and until I inform you otherwise) as Gift Aid, and reclaim tax on them. I will pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax I am asking St George's School (Harpden) Limited to reclaim. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1.00 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: Date:

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Luxury Christmas Cards
designed by Tim Edwards, St George's Parent, Illustrator and Artist.
Pack of 5 (A6)
£6.00 (incl. P&P)



Upcycled St George's School uniform cushions and teddy bear designed and hand made by St George's Parents

Small Cushion £15.00

Large Cushion £20.00

Teddy Bear £35.00



Make a Donation

How you can contribute to the future of St George's

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the development office who will be more than happy to assist you OR make a donation using the details below.

Development Office,
St George's School,
Harpden, HERTS, AL5 4TD
Tel 01582 765477

Barclays Bank A/C 03517586
Sort Code: 20-03-62

or development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



OGA Tie

Why don't you commemorate your time at St George's School by purchasing a 100% Silk Old Georgian Tie

If you would like to make a purchase, please complete the form below and return to:

Development Office,
St George's School,
Harpenden, HERTS, AL5 4TD
or development@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk



Old Georgians 100% Silk Tie Order Form

I would like to order __ __ 100% silk tie(s) at £15.00 each (plus P&P)

P&P national delivery: £2.50 P&P international delivery: £5.00

TOTAL: £ _____ (include P&P)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

I enclose a cheque for the sum of £ _____

Payable to St George's School (Harpenden) Ltd

BANK TRANSFER

Sort Code: 20-03-62

Account Number: 00018414

Reference: Tie-Surname

Thank You

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The Old Georgians Association website – <https://eu.ptly.com/uk/>

